

News Release



For Immediate Release
Date: October 29, 2003

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Campgrounds and Historic Structures Destroyed at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

DESCANSO — State Park rangers are surveying what remains of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park after the Cedar Fire moved through the area. The fire first burned into the State Park Monday and the park continues to burn today. Popular campgrounds at Green Valley and Paso Picacho will look very different when campers are allowed to return.

State Park rangers worked closely with county sheriffs to safely evacuate everyone ahead of the fast-moving fire. Limited fire crews fought to save park buildings, but several historic structures built in the 1930s by the CCC at Camp Hual-cu-Cuish were lost in the blaze. The loss of these historic structures and sites is significant. These cultural resources represent some of the best examples of CCC era Park Rustic architecture in California State Parks. The historic Dyar House, built in 1923, which housed the park headquarters and visitor center was lost late Tuesday. These are landmarks for the Cuyamacas and for all those who visited this popular park for its over 70 year existence. Park historians are devastated at the loss.

Paso Picacho and Green Valley Campgrounds will remain closed until further notice. Campers holding reservations for either of these campgrounds should contact the reservation hotline at (800) 444-7275 to make other arrangements. Park Superintendent Laura Itogawa

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urged people not to head up the mountain to see what happened. "Even the turnouts along highway 79 are closed. At this point the entire park is closed, including hiking and day-use areas until rangers can assure public safety and resource protection." Palomar Mountain State Park, threatened by the Paradise Fire, will also remain closed until further notice.

The campgrounds at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park remain open and are currently serving hundreds of campers escaping the fires. Anza-Borrego Desert State Park will provide campsites at no charge for those displaced by the fire for the next ten days. The campground is most suitable for self-contained campers; persons needing actual shelter services will be better served in the Red Cross evacuation shelters.

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park will operate normally during the fire as officials continue to monitor the situation. District Superintendent Mat Fuzie noted that "the desert provides a natural fire break." "Fuel continuity is minimal on the desert floor, with light vegetation widely spaced so the desert is relatively safe."

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